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STATE OF MONTANA

COMMITTEE ON PROBLEMS OF AGING

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STATE OF MONTANA

COMMITTEE ON PROBLEMS OF AGING

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~~HELENA, MONTANA 59601~~
STATE of MONTANA
COMMITTEE ON PROBLEMS of AGING
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CAPITOL COMPLEX
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TIM BABCOCK
GOVERNOR OF MONTANA

LYLE DOWNING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 13, 1966

Honorable Tim Babcock
Governor of the State of Montana
State Capitol Building
Helena, Montana

Dear Governor Babcock:

In accordance with the requirements set forth in Section 82-3501 to and including Section 82-3506, RCM, we are submitting herewith a report of the operations of the Committee on Problems of Aging. Every effort has been made to keep this report as concise as possible, yet hoping to present in a clear manner the activities of this agency.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Barclay Craighead

Barclay Craighead
Chairman

BC/jdr

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COMMITTEE ON PROBLEMS OF AGING

The Committee on Problems of Aging was created by the 1965 Legislature to implement the provisions of Title III of the Older Americans Act in Montana. The Committee was appointed by the Governor on August 26, 1965. However, this agency was not established until May 13, 1966. At a meeting on that date the Committee on Problems of Aging authorized the employment of Lyle Downing as Executive Director. The Committee by unanimous vote authorized Mr. Downing to employ an office secretary under the rules of the Joint Merit System. According to the Montana State Plan for the Committee on Problems of Aging which was approved both by the regional office of the Administration on Aging in Denver, Colorado and William Bechill, Commissioner for the Administration on Aging in Washington, D.C., the Montana Committee was empowered to administer federal grants to finance social and economic programs for the 67,000 senior citizens in this state. Under federal regulations up to $15,000 a year in state funds would be matched 100% by the Administration on Aging for administration of the state program. Since we began operations on May 15, 1966 we have received $23,857 in project funds and $12,988 in administrative matching funds. As the legislative act establishing the Committee on Problems of Aging did not include an appropriation we have been greatly handicapped in carrying out the provisions of the Older Americans Act. We received $6,500 from two state agencies which was matched by the Administration on Aging. The Administration on Aging also gave us $1,172 to match in-kind services and expenditures for rent.

BUDGET DIRECTOR MAKES RECOMMENDATION -

Mr. Richard F. Morris, Budget Director, is making the following recommendation to the 1967 Legislature for financing the Committee on Problems of Aging for the next biennium:

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1968 - $12,421
For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1969 - $12,592

If these amounts are appropriated, the Committee will receive the following matching funds for administration from the Administration on Aging:

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1968 - $12,421
For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1969 - $12,592

From the federal and private grants clearance fund of the federal Administration on Aging we will receive:

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1968 - $55,200
For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1969 - $55,200

As the Montana Committee on Problems of Aging did not begin operations until the middle of the eleventh month of the 1965-66 fiscal year, we were allowed to carry over into the current fiscal year the $58,000 in project grant funds which had been allocated by the federal government for fiscal year 1965-66. The allocation for fiscal year 1966-67 was $58,649 which gave us project grant funds totalling approximately $117,149. So far this year $23,857 in project grant funds has been deposited to our account with the State Treasurer. Out of this $23,857 we have funded a project at St. John's Hospital, Helena, in the amount of $3,483, their first quarterly allotment. In addition to this amount St. John's Hospital contributed $435 in cash and in-kind services. The purpose of the project is to demonstrate the feasibility of hiring

persons over 60 years old to provide special services to elderly patients in the hospital's extended care unit.

STATE TRAINING SCHOOL GRANT -

The Committee also has approved a project at the State Training School in Boulder which will provide social and recreational activities for 125 retarded residents of that institution. The total cost of this project is $19,292, of which 25% is being provided in in-kind services by the Boulder River Junior Chamber of Commerce. This project will start January 1, 1967.

MONTANA DEACONESS HOSPITAL APPLIES -

The Committee has also received an application from the Montana Deaconess Hospital in Great Falls for a grant to finance a project similar to the one now in operation at St. John's Hospital, Helena. This application is under study.

SENIOR CITIZENS SURVEY -

On January 1, 1967, under a grant from the Administration on Aging, Carroll College, Helena, will start a six-months' survey of Montana's 67,000 senior citizens which will provide this Committee and other state agencies with comprehensive information on the economic and social status of these senior citizens.

In a preliminary report to the Committee at its meeting December 9, 1966, George Rybakoff, assistant professor of Economics at Carroll College, outlined the procedures which will be followed in the survey. Mr. Rybakoff, who will supervise the survey, said he plans to set up two categories of cities and towns - over and under 5,000 population. He expects to hire a senior citizen in each community to coordinate the survey which will include rural areas. The exact amount of the grant which will go to Carroll

College has not been determined because Mr. Rybakoff has not submitted his final budget. He expects to submit the formal application and budget within the next week.

OTHER PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION -

The Gallatin County Senior Citizens Club, composed of 600 members has notified the State Committee it will make application for a grant to establish a senior citizen multi-purpose center in Bozeman to serve approximately 2,000 elderly residents of that county.

The Missoula-Mineral Human Resources, Incorporated, a non-profit corporation, has requested a grant to hire a coordinator for a senior citizens center already established in Missoula.

The Board of County Commissioners of Silver Bow County have notified the State Committee that they are planning to file an application for a grant to finance a project similar to the St. John's project for 150 elderly patients in the extended care section of Silver Bow County Hospital.

The Community Action Program of Billings and Yellowstone County has requested a grant to finance a project for training senior citizens as tutors.

The $117,149 allocation in project funds to Montana will make it possible for us to fund these projects for one year. We failed to mention that all projects are funded on a 75-25 basis. The federal government contributes 75% and the remainder must be furnished by the project sponsors in cash and in-kind services. At its meeting on December 9, 1966, the State Committee was pre-

sented with a projection by federal officials which indicates that the trend toward earlier retirement and medical advances will shorten the working career of the average citizen while at the same time lengthening life expectancy. Consequently, the number of senior citizens will increase greatly during the next decade.

STATE IS LOSING MONEY

It was also pointed out at the meeting that the State is losing several million dollars a year as a result of retired senior citizens leaving Montana to take up residence in California and other states. It is apparent that unless the state does something about this, more and more retired persons will leave Montana. The Older Americans Act provides for many projects which would make living in Montana more attractive to elderly persons. We are certain that if the 1967 Legislature authorizes an appropriation for the Montana Committee on Problems of Aging in line with the recommendation of the Budget Director, we will be able to expand our program to all parts of the state and reach many of the 67,000 senior citizens now residing in Montana.

We also would like to call your attention to the fact that none of the project funds now allocated to Montana can be carried over into the next fiscal year. Of course, this is no excuse to fund projects merely to spend the money, but we wanted to point out that during the next fiscal year we will be operating with newly allocated federal funds which will not equal the money now available. If any of the money allocated for fiscal years 1965-66 and 1966-67 is not expended it will revert to the Administration on Aging.

Another important factor under the provisions of Title III of the Older Americans Act is that after the money is allocated to the state this agency has full authority to select and fund projects with no strings attached except that the projects are operated in such a manner as to comply with state and federal laws. Our procedure before funding a project is to have it approved by the Executive Committee of the Montana Committee on Problems of Aging and the Technical Review Committee, which is composed of Dr. William S. Harper, State Representative John L. Delano, attorney Thomas H. Mahan and Howard Ellsworth, all of Helena. Mr. Ellsworth represents the senior citizens. The Executive Committee of the Montana Committee on Problems of Aging is composed of Barclay Craighead, John Sasek and John Coey, all of Helena.

EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION -

It will be observed that funds available for administrative costs of the Committee on Problems of Aging will expire approximately March 1. Regretfully, then, the Committee is under the necessity of asking for an interim appropriation of $3,879 to carry the office until July 1, 1967 if it is the will of the lawmakers that the office be continued.

We hope this report places this program in the proper perspective and that you will give it your support.

STATE OF MONTANA
COMMITTEE ON PROBLEMS OF AGING
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